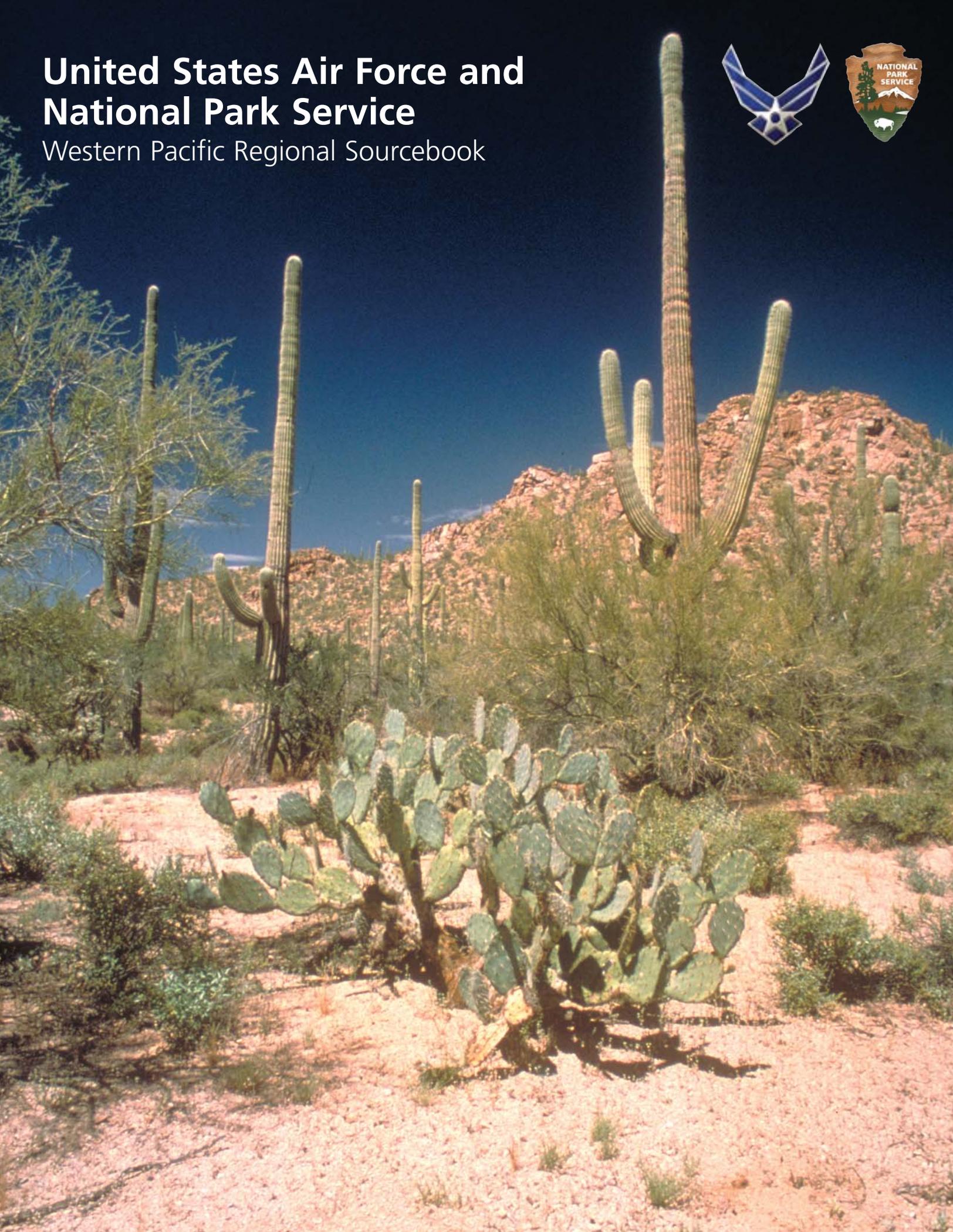


United States Air Force and National Park Service

Western Pacific Regional Sourcebook





An F-16CJ based at Shaw AFB, S.C. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Greg L. Davis)

United States Air Force and National Park Service

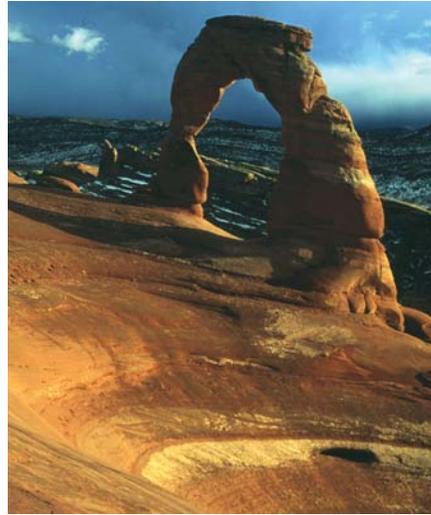
Western Pacific Regional Sourcebook

National Park Service
United States Air Force
October 2002



Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona

Preface



Delicate Arch,
Arches National Park, Utah

The United States Air Force and the National Park Service share one fundamental mission: to defend, protect and preserve the United States. Both agencies work to ensure that the America we know today is the same nation we pass on to our children and grandchildren. National parks are the crown jewels set aside to look and sound today and tomorrow as they did generations ago. General Thomas D. White, Air Force Chief of Staff (1957-1961), expressed the relationship between defense of nation and preservation of resources most eloquently:



The mission of the Department of Defense is more than aircraft, guns and missiles. Part of the defense job is protecting the lands, waters, timber and wildlife the priceless natural resources that make this great nation of ours worth defending.

Accomplishing the objectives of the two agencies in the same space is a complex and challenging task. The Air Force must test its equipment and train its people to defend our nation; the National Park Service must continually serve, satisfy, and educate today's visitors while safeguarding the wildlife, natural, cultural, and historic assets for future generations. With 387 park units, an estimated 150 of which underlie training routes and other military airspace, some conflict between the two agencies is inevitable.

Population growth and development around installations threatens to diminish the amount of airspace available for training. Similarly, many NPS soundscapes are being degraded by a

variety of noise intrusions. Though a critical park resource, natural sound cannot be safeguarded in all places at all times. But where the potential for conflict can be identified, it can be managed, minimized, or entirely avoided.

The USAF and NPS Regional Sourcebook builds on the progress made by the USAF Airspace and Range Council's regional conferences, which bring together all types of airspace users for discussion and have resulted in numerous agreements between the two agencies. Nonetheless, the Air Force and National Park Service recognize that we have undoubtedly missed opportunities to work together. Improved communication will lead to fewer conflicts and more opportunities for cooperation. We have not altered the processes for either organization; rather we have sought to make sense of them for each other.

This sourcebook is designed to facilitate better communication and local interaction, so you will be prepared to work with your colleagues to solve problems. Both agencies will benefit from an increased understanding of each other's organizations and priorities. While this sourcebook contains a great deal of information, you the user remain the most critical element in fostering a better working relationship in pursuit of your goals.

The National Parks Conservation Association has assisted the Air Force and the National Park Service in building a bridge of communication. It is in everyone's interest to ensure that, as a nation, we are adequately trained to safeguard our people, our land, and our heritage.

As John Reynolds, National Park Service Regional Director (1997-2002) stated:

The National Park Service protects our nation's heritage through the preservation of our country's special places treasured natural and cultural resources for the enjoyment of this and future generations. The U.S. military protects our heritage through a strong national defense to ensure that this and future generations have the freedom to continue to preserve and enjoy these special places. There must be constructive engagement between these government agencies to honor these missions.



A 58th Special Operations Wing, 551st Special Operations Squadron, MH 53J Pave Low IIIE flies a training mission near Kirtland Air Force Base, NM. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Master Sgt. Dave Nolan)

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F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 21st Fighter Squadron at Luke AFB, fly in formation over southern Arizona. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Allen.)

Regional Sourcebook Organization

Who would I call if I had a flight profile that might affect the National Park Service?

Who do I call to request a flight schedule modification for a special park event?

Who can I contact for information about park resources and visitor activities?

Where can I find the person in charge of conservation and pollution prevention?

What do you do when you have questions like the four to the left? In the past, you may have tried any number of different sources and paths to handle these issues. Both the Air Force and the National Park Service recognize the benefits of increased cooperation and have worked together to build a tool to help you solve such problems.

The USAF and NPS Regional Sourcebook is designed to encourage communication among people with a wide variety of airspace knowledge. Too often, issues are escalated through our national organizations that could be resolved with a local phone call. This book will provide you with information about the people with whom you share airspace and the most efficient means to work with them. You will also find descriptions of your peers in each service and their contact information.

The two agencies intend to publish six regional sourcebooks (refer to Air Force Airspace and Range Council Regions map on page 10). Each edition will contain general information applicable to all regions, plus a chapter containing specific information about the USAF installations and NPS units in that region. The sourcebook is comprised of five chapters:

Chapter One: Overview of the United States Air Force and the National Park Service

Chapter Two: Types of Airspace and National Park System Units

Chapter Three: Air Force Airspace and National Park Service Soundscape Decision Making

Chapter Four: Developing Relationships and Collaborative Problem Solving

Chapter Five: Air Force Installations and National Park Units in the Region

We have provided some technical information for those with airspace experience. For users with limited experience, there are explanations and suggestions.

Do you have questions or suggestions that should be included in the next regional sourcebook? If so, please share them with us at Sourcebook@SimSupport.com and we'll contact you.



Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina & Virginia